

a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as “Captive Nations Week.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 15 through 21, 2007, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to reaffirm our commitment to all those seeking liberty, justice, and self-determination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:26 a.m., July 11, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 12.

Presidential Determination on Transfer of Economic Support Funds to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation To Establish a Loan Guarantee Program

July 10, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007–26

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Transfer of Economic Support Funds to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to Establish a Loan Guarantee Program

Pursuant to section 579 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–102)(the “Act”), I hereby determine that it is in furtherance of the purposes of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, that \$5 million in Economic Support Funds appropriated under title II of the Act may be transferred to and merged with the funds appropriated by the Act for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Program Account, to be subject to the terms and conditions of that account.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 11.

Remarks at a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the Renovated James S. Brady Press Briefing Room and an Exchange With Reporters

July 11, 2007

The President. Thank you very much. Yes, thanks. I like a good, short introduction. [Laughter]

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Yes. [Laughter] After all, it is your room. Yes. [Laughter] Welcome back to the West Wing. We missed you—sort of. [Laughter] I can already tell this place has improved. The last time I was in here to hold a press conference, I broke out into a sweat—not because of your questions but because of the climate. The air-conditioner seems to work well. I hope the facility is—suits your needs. I really do.

The relationship between the President and the press is a unique relationship, and it’s a necessary relationship. I enjoy it. I hope you do. As I say, sometimes you don’t like the decisions I make, and sometimes I don’t like the way you write about the decisions. But nevertheless, it’s a really important part of our process. And the fact that you were working in substandard conditions just wasn’t right. It really wasn’t.

And so my White House worked with Steve and Ann, worked with Mark Smith to get it right. And I think it’s going to benefit future Presidents and future White House press corps, to be working in modern conditions, conditions where a fellow like me will feel comfortable coming in here answering a few questions without losing 20 pounds. [Laughter]

It was really hot in here. As a matter of fact, I can’t imagine how Snow could handle it on a regular basis. But now it’s modern, and it’s going to enable you to do a better job. And I’m glad that’s the case.